MARVEL
2
LGY#652
GERRY DUGGAN
JUAN FRIGERI
BRYAN VALENZA
THE INVINCIBLE
IRON MAN
ONE-ON-ONE
AGAINST
IRONHEART

CARLOS PACHECO
1961-2022

"My friend Carlos Pacheco was a sweetheart of a guy who loved comics, the Marvel comics that he read as a child most of all. He brought an enthusiasm to his work that went beyond the drive of the professional — he was truly invested in the characters and their fictitious lives. His work combined the dynamics of John Byrne with the realism of Neal Adams, creating a synthesis that captured the essence of American super hero comics — a form that was exotic to Carlos as he first read the translated stories but which he absorbed and came to embody like a native. A citizen of Spain, the Marvel Universe was his true home."

— TOM BREVOORT

"Carlos was a dream collaborator who made every story better with his ideas, his brilliant storytelling and his beautiful art. But more, he was warmhearted, enthusiastic and a wonderful person. I was thrilled to work with him but happier still to have him as a friend. He will be enormously missed."

— KURT BUSIEK

I've been in the gutter before but never quite as literally as I am now in Hell's Kitchen.
Some days, the bright lights in the tunnel vision are a train…
…but tonight, they're my hero, **Ironheart.**
TONY, TONY, TONY...YOU'RE NOT WHO I EXPECTED TO SEE AS THE NUMBER ONE TIKTOK TREND TONIGHT.
RIRI, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS, BUT IT SOUNDS AWFUL.
YOU NEVER WANT TO BE THE INTERNET'S MAIN CHARACTER. SPEAKING OF "NOT GOOD," YOUR HEART IS ARRHYTHMIC. I'M GETTING YOU TO A HOSPITAL.
NO! NOT A HOSPITAL... GET ME TO THE ARMOR.

I TOLD YOU, I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE MANDARIN RINGS WITH YOU, TONY.*
YOU'RE IN NO SHAPE.
I JUST WANNA MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING THERE...
*RIRI RECENTLY ACQUIRED THE MANDARIN'S RINGS IN IRON MAN (2022) #24! --DS

...IT'S GONE BADLY FOR EVERYBODY WHO WEARS THEM.
YEAH, WELL, I'M NOT EVERYBODY.

B.O.S.S., LOOK AT MY HEART. IT CAN'T KEEP A BEAT RIGHT NOW.
PACEMAKER <ACTIVATED.>

<TOXIN> DETECTED. DEPLOYING COUNTER-MEASURES.
SUGGESTED COURSE OF ACTION: A HOSPITAL WILL--

B.O.S.S., GIVE RIRI AND I SOME PRIVACY.
OF COURSE.
TOXIN, HUH?

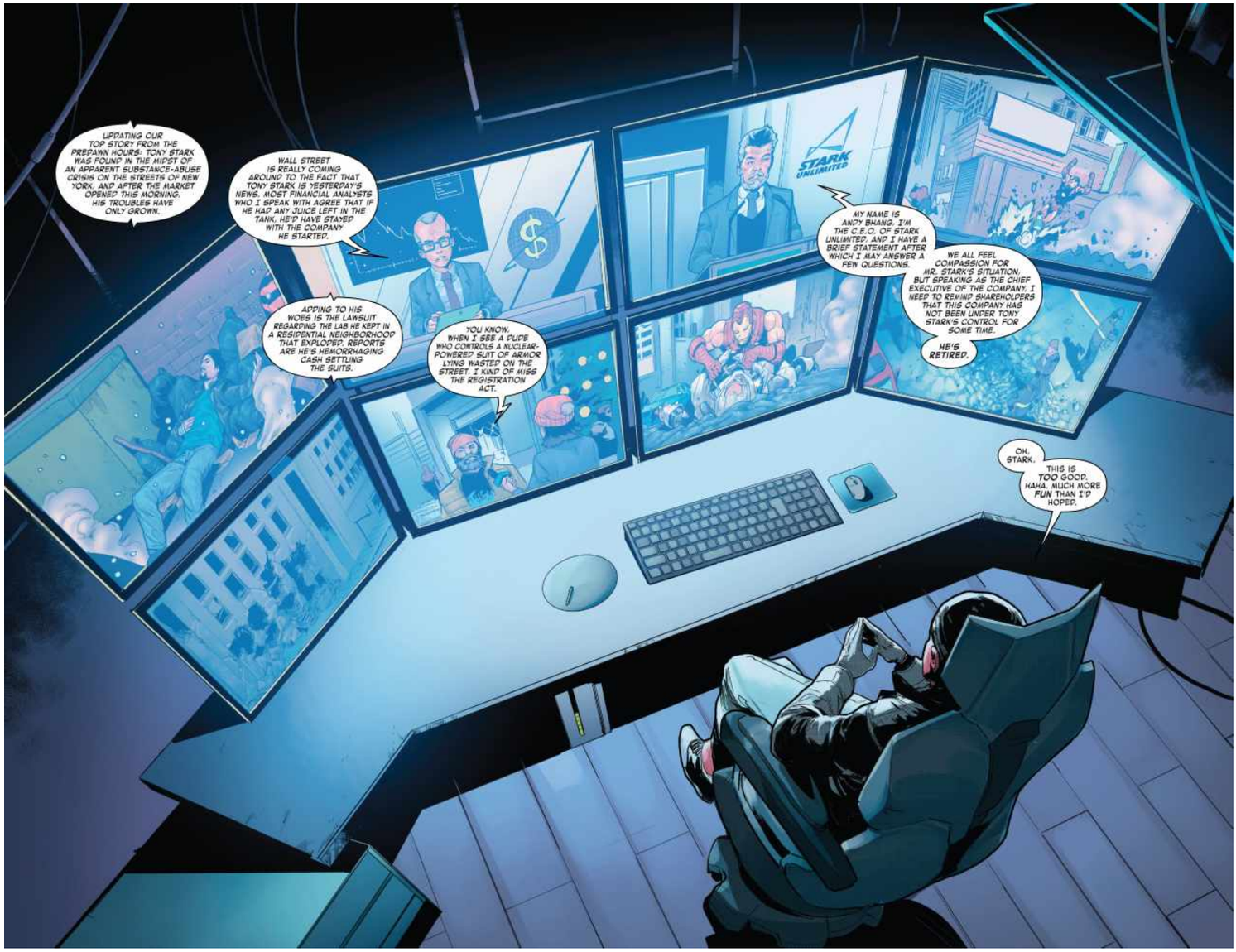
SO...*THIS* IS THE NEW HOME OF IRON MAN?
NOBODY DECLUTTERS LIKE TONY STARK.

YOU KNOW WHAT I DID WITH THE MONEY--I BOUGHT UP A LOT OF WEAPONS AND DOOMSDAY MACHINES THAT WOULD BE OUT WREAKING HAVOC.
THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM FOR SOME DANGEROUS OLD RINGS IN THAT WAREHOUSE, RIRI.

NO DICE.
BESIDES, I DON'T ROLL OUT WEARING THE NEW WILLIAMS FAMILY JEWELS WITHOUT IT BEING A SPECIAL OCCASION. TRUST ME, THEY'RE IN A SAFE LOCATION.

YOU KNOW, THE WORLD THINKS YOU FELL OFF THE WAGON TONIGHT. YOU PLAN ON CORRECTING THE STORY?
I DON'T OWE THE WORLD ANYTHING. THIS IS BETWEEN ME AND WHOMEVER IS GUNNING FOR ME.

JUST... NEED... SLEEP.
"GOOD MORNING, NEW YORK. HERE'S


UPDATING OUR TOP STORY FROM THE PREDAWN HOURS: TONY STARK WAS FOUND IN THE MIDST OF AN APPARENT SUBSTANCE-ABUSE CRISIS ON THE STREETS OF NEW YORK. AND AFTER THE MARKET OPENED THIS MORNING, HIS TROUBLES HAVE ONLY GROWN.
WALL STREET IS REALLY COMING AROUND TO THE FACT THAT TONY STARK IS YESTERDAY'S NEWS. MOST FINANCIAL ANALYSTS WHO I SPEAK WITH AGREE THAT IF HE HAD ANY JUICE LEFT IN THE TANK, HE'D HAVE STAYED WITH THE COMPANY HE STARTED.
ADDING TO HIS WOES IS THE LAWSUIT REGARDING THE LAB HE KEPT IN A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD THAT EXPLODED. REPORTS ARE HE'S HEMORRHAGING CASH SETTLING THE SUITS.
YOU KNOW, WHEN I SEE A DUDE WHO CONTROLS A NUCLEAR-POWERED SUIT OF ARMOR LYING WASTED ON THE STREET, I KIND OF MISS THE REGISTRATION ACT.
STARK UNLIMITED
MY NAME IS ANDY BHANG. I'M THE C.E.O. OF STARK UNLIMITED, AND I HAVE A BRIEF STATEMENT AFTER WHICH I MAY ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS.
WE ALL FEEL COMPASSION FOR MR. STARK'S SITUATION, BUT SPEAKING AS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE COMPANY, I NEED TO REMIND SHAREHOLDERS THAT THIS COMPANY HAS NOT BEEN UNDER TONY STARK'S CONTROL FOR SOME TIME.
HE'S RETIRED.
OH, STARK.
THIS IS TOO GOOD. HAHA. MUCH MORE FUN THAN I'D HOPED.

WHEN MULTI-BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST TONY STARK, INVENTOR EXTRAORDINAIRE, DONS HIS SOLAR-CHARGED, STEEL-MESH ARMOR, HE BECOMES A HIGH-TECH WARRIOR—THE WORLD'S GREATEST HUMAN FIGHTING MACHINE!

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS...

THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

"THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF TONY STARK"

CHAPTER TWO

PREVIOUSLY...

Tony Stark used to have it all. But after spending his entire fortune to take black-market weapons off the streets, all Stark is left with is his Iron Man armor.

Now Tony has a target on his back. Someone behind the scenes has been plotting Tony's downfall—from bombing his home to sending assassins after him. Has the pressure gotten to Tony? His recent visit to a bar would seem to say so...

GERRY DUGGAN
WRITER

JUAN FRIGERI
ARTIST

BRYAN VALENZA
COLORIST

VC's JOE CARAMAGNA
LETTERER

KAEL NGU
COVER ARTIST

CHRIS ALLEN & DAVID CURIEL; BOB LAYTON & PAUL MOUNTS; PEACH MOMOKO; DAVID NAKAYAMA; ESAD RIBIĆ
VARIANT COVERS

ADAM DEL RE
SENIOR DESIGNER

KAT GREGOROWICZ
ASSISTANT EDITOR

DARREN SHAN
EDITOR

TOM BREVOORT
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK & JACK KIRBY

TONY STARK HAS COMPLETELY DIVESTED FROM THE COMPANY. HE HAS *NOTHING* TO DO WITH STARK UNLIMITED, AND NEITHER DOES HIS CREATION, IRON MAN.
STARK UNLIMITED
SKRABOOM!
WHERE IS MY JAILER--
--WHERE IS TONY STARK?!

HE'S RETIRED.
I AM NOT RETIRED. HOW DARE HE?
YOU'RE LITERALLY IN A HAMMOCK, OLD MAN.
IS THAT THE LIVING LASER?
YEP. SURE LOOKS LIKE IT. I BET THEY TRY TO BLAME THIS ON ME TOO.
WHERE IS TONY STARK?!
CAN'T IMAGINE WHY.
GOTTA SUIT UP.
UGHN.
GRRR.
AARGH!
HELP ME OUT OF THIS HAMMOCK?

By necessity, when I create, I need to be alone. That's why Tony Stark has often lived such a solitary life.
It's Iron Man who seems to attract all the friends.
That's weird, right?
Not that I'm not grateful for Riri, Rhodes and the Avengers when it's time to put the armor into action.
THE LIVING LASER ISN'T TO BE UNDERESTIMATED.
EVEN THOUGH HIS NAME IS "THE LIVING LASER"?
...
YES.
9-1-1 CALLS ARE COMING IN FROM THE OLD AVENGERS MANSION.
ISN'T THIS PLACE A THEME HOTEL NOW?
YEAH, LOTS OF CIVILIANS PROBABLY TOO.
LET'S NOT MAKE THE NEWS.
I THINK THAT'LL BE MY NEW BATTLE CRY.

FWASH!
"EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES," MY ASS!
THAT'S JUST RUDE, ARTHUR PARKS.
I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF STATUES.
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER STATUES.
I THINK THAT'S HIS LINE.
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING TO ME, STARK?
AND DON'T LIE!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT--CAN WE PLEASE TALK ABOUT THIS? SOMEBODY IS GUNNING FOR ME, AND I THINK YOU'RE CAUGHT UP IN IT.

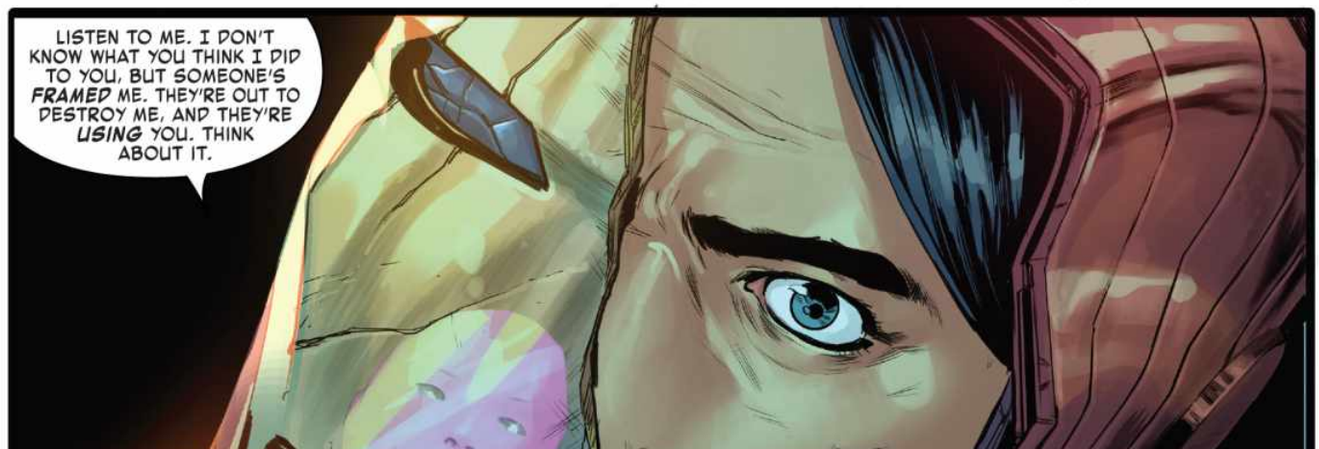
VERY FUNNY!
SAYING "CAUGHT UP IN IT" TO A GUY YOU CAPTURED AND EXPERIMENTED ON. REAL CUTE.
AARGH!
KRESH
WHOA!
ZZT
ZZT
ZZT

WHUDD!
AAARGH!
STOP! YOU'RE GOING TO KILL SOMEONE!
YEAH-- YOU!
YOU WERE ALWAYS A SMUG #$%&, BUT I NEVER TOOK YOU FOR A MAD SCIENTIST, STARK...
...BUT MAYBE ALL THAT MONEY AND POWER JUST MADE YOU CRAZY.
ZARK!
BWEEM!
BADOOM!
WHAT WERE YOU AFTER, ANYWAY?

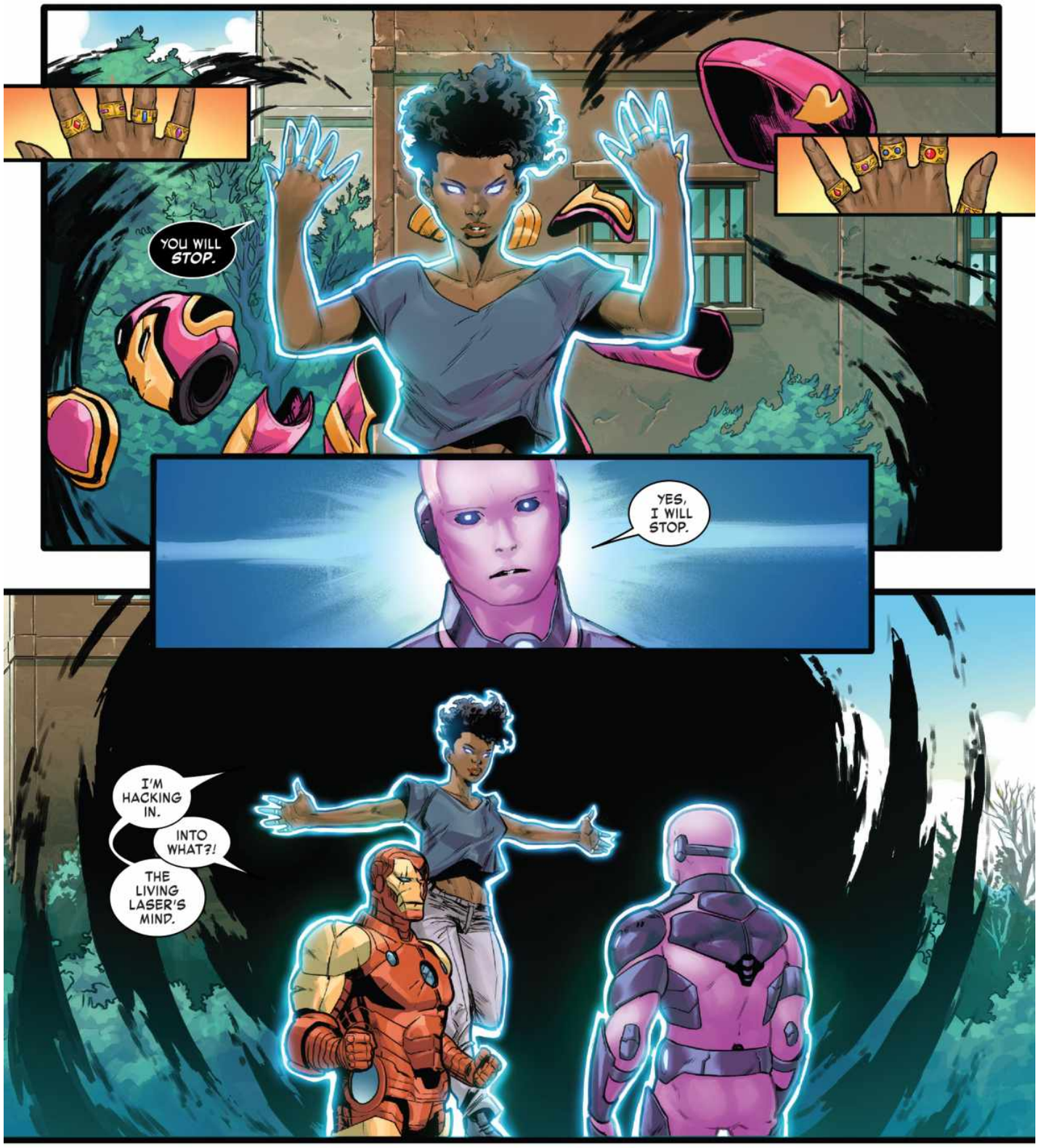
WERE YOU HOPING TO ADD MY POWER TO THAT SUIT?
WELL, YOU'RE NOT GONNA HAVE IT FOR LONG.
SKRAZZZ!
ARTHUR, STOP!

USE YOUR WORDS.

WHO NEEDS WORDS WHEN YOU CAN USE LASERS?
B.O.S.S., GIVE ME WEAPONS!
POWER LEVELS MINIMAL.
WHAT DO WE HAVE? POSTMATES? CAN WE ORDER TAKEOUT TO ENTICE NEGOTIATIONS?


LISTEN TO ME. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK I DID TO YOU, BUT SOMEONE'S FRAMED ME. THEY'RE OUT TO DESTROY ME, AND THEY'RE USING YOU. THINK ABOUT IT.

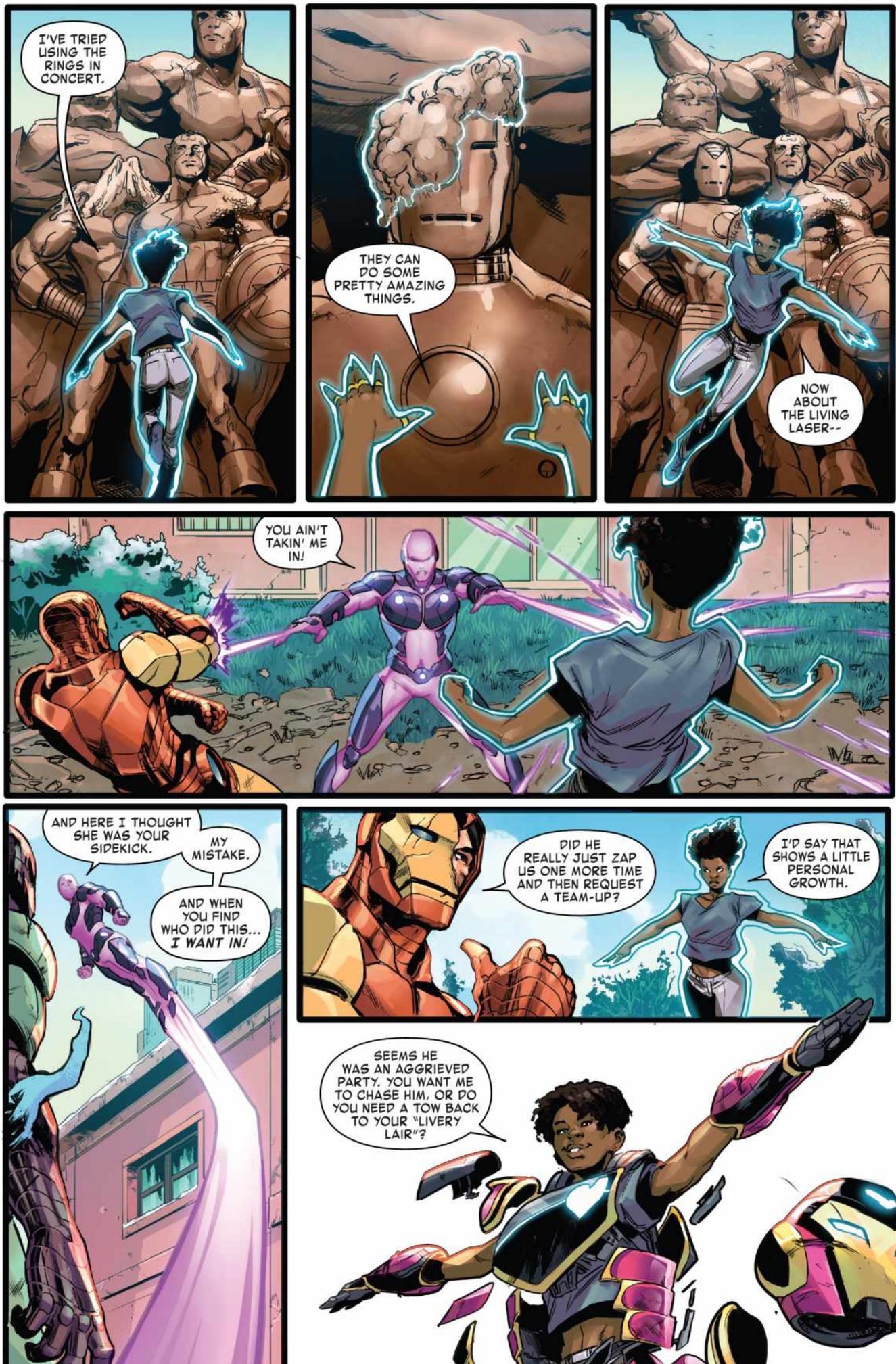
HOW'RE YOUR RIBS, ARTIE?
KRAK!
UNGH!
I GUESS IF I'M GONNA KILL ONE ARMORED IDIOT, WHY NOT TWO?
AND DON'T CALL ME "ARTIE."
ZZZZT!
YOW!
THAT'S IT.
OKAY...NOW THE GLOVES COME OFF.
RIRI-- WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?


YOU WILL STOP.
YES, I WILL STOP.
I'M HACKING IN.
INTO WHAT?!
THE LIVING LASER'S MIND.

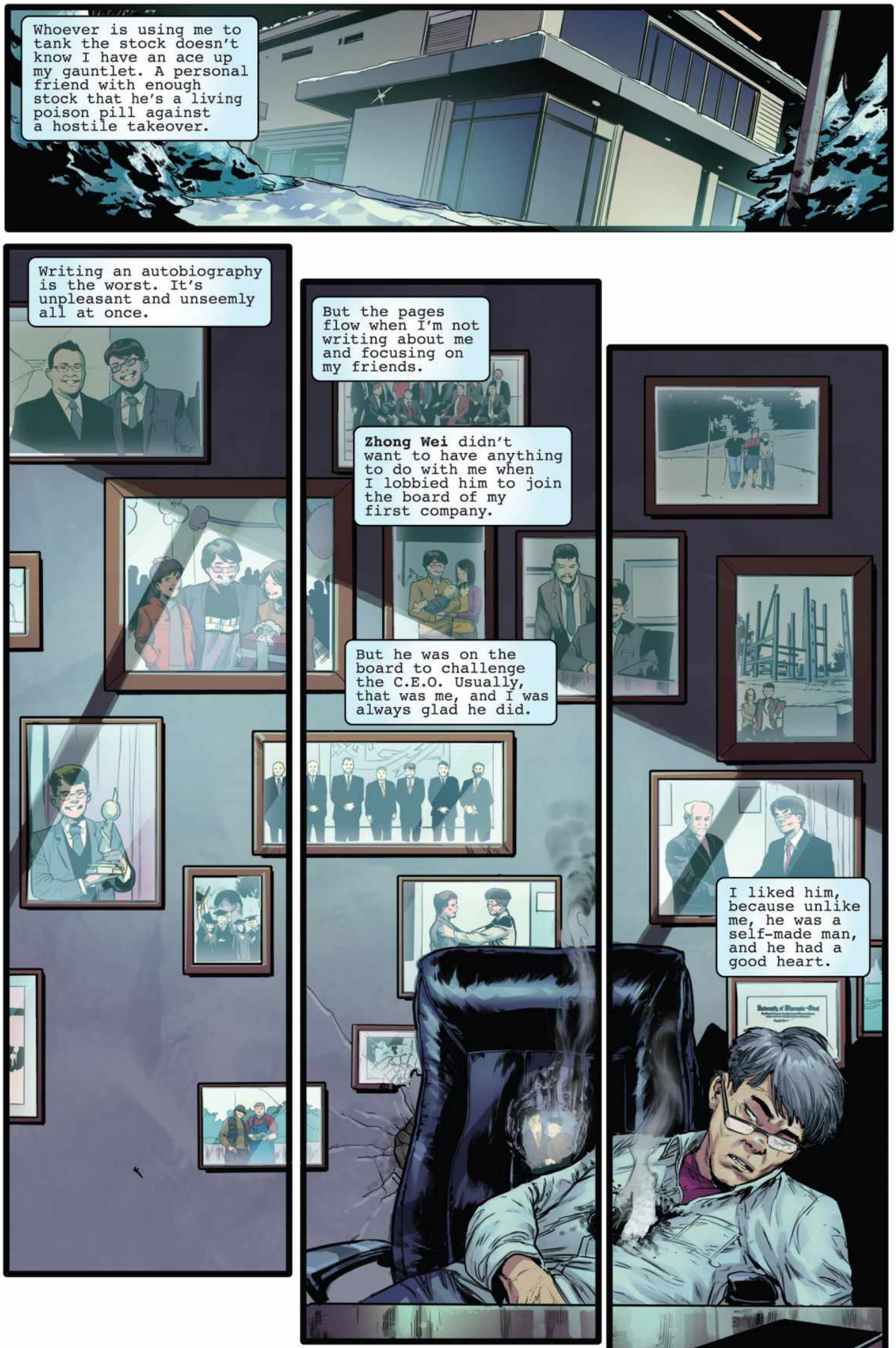
RIRI-- YOU LIED TO ME.
NO, I DIDN'T. I SAID THE RINGS WERE SAFE AND THEY ARE.
NOW I'M USING THE RINGS TO ENTER YOUR MIND, PARKS.
DO YOURSELF A FAVOR AND DON'T RESIST...

"...AS I ENTER REMOTELY TO VIEW YOUR MEMORIES. WOW. CRIME STILL PAYING WELL, I SEE."
"NOT QUITE. I'M CRASHING IN THIS PENTHOUSE. FOREIGN INTERESTS LOVES TO LAUNDER MONEY IN THIS BUILDING, AND I LOVE BREAKING INTO EMPTY PLACES.
"SO THE LAST THING I REMEMBER BEFORE WAKING UP AT STARK'S COMPANY IS--MAKING DINNER A WEEK AGO, WHEN THERE'S A KNOCK AT MY DOOR. AND NOBODY EVEN KNOWS I'M CRASHING THERE.
NOK NOK!
STARK?!
"YOU TAZED ME...
"...THEN YOUR GOONS SEDATED ME, AND I WAS TAKEN TO THAT SECRET LAB AT YOUR COMPANY."

PARKS, I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN AWAY FOR A BIT, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY GOONS.
THAT'S TRUE. HE CAN'T AFFORD THEM.
BUT PARKS' MEMORY HASN'T BEEN TAMPERED WITH.
YOU'RE BOTH RIGHT. TONY STARK DID KIDNAP YOU AND RUN EXPERIMENTS ON YOU.
I TOLDJA.
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT? A LIFE-MODEL DECOY? WORSE?
WHY'D THEY DRAG ME INTO THIS?
ARE YOU KIDDING?!
SO THAT EVERYTHING YOU JUST DID WOULD HAPPEN!
LOOK AT HOW PREDICTABLE YOU WERE!
OKAY, GENTS. BACK TO YOUR CORNERS.
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE AN APOLOGY?!


I'VE TRIED USING THE RINGS IN CONCERT.
THEY CAN DO SOME PRETTY AMAZING THINGS.
NOW ABOUT THE LIVING LASER--
YOU AIN'T TAKIN' ME IN!
AND HERE I THOUGHT SHE WAS YOUR SIDEKICK.
MY MISTAKE.
AND WHEN YOU FIND WHO DID THIS... I WANT IN!
DID HE REALLY JUST ZAP US ONE MORE TIME AND THEN REQUEST A TEAM-UP?
I'D SAY THAT SHOWS A LITTLE PERSONAL GROWTH.
SEEMS HE WAS AN AGGRIEVED PARTY. YOU WANT ME TO CHASE HIM, OR DO YOU NEED A TOW BACK TO YOUR "LIVERY LAIR"?

A LITTLE WHILE LATER, BACK AT STARK'S HIDEOUT.
APPRECIATE THE RIDE HOME.
WE'LL CONTINUE TO AGREE TO DISAGREE ABOUT THE RINGS. IN THE MEANTIME, I NEED YOU TO KEEP A DISTANCE FROM ME. AT LEAST PUBLICLY.
UNTIL WE KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.
ANY IDEA HOW THEY POISONED YOU?
YES.
"AT THE AA MEETING I ATTENDED LAST NIGHT...
"...THAT'S WHERE IT HAPPENED.
"I'M USED TO NEARLY BEING KILLED FOR A LIVING...BUT NOT AT MY DAMN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS...AND IT MAKES ME VERY ANGRY."
IT'S GOTTA BE ABOUT THE STARK UNLIMITED STOCK PRICE, BUT NONE OF THE OLD NAMES FIT. SO MANY OF THEM--STANE, HAMMER-- ALL DEAD.
WELL, BE CAREFUL. AND YELL WHEN YOU NEED ME.
I WILL. AND THANKS. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO


Whoever is using me to tank the stock doesn't know I have an ace up my gauntlet. A personal friend with enough stock that he's a living poison pill against a hostile takeover.
Writing an autobiography is the worst. It's unpleasant and unseemly all at once.
But the pages flow when I'm not writing about me and focusing on my friends.
Zhong Wei didn't want to have anything to do with me when I lobbied him to join the board of my first company.
But he was on the board to challenge the C.E.O. Usually, that was me, and I was always glad he did.
I liked him, because unlike me, he was a self-made man, and he had a good heart.

As long as he's safely in that seat, I don't have anything to worry about.
NEXT: A BLAST

#3: TONY STARK BREAKS BAD!

NO ONE IS SAFE AROUND TONY STARK! A CLOSE FRIEND IS DEAD, AND THE CULPRIT LOOKS TO BE TONY HIMSELF! BUT WHO IS THE REAL MURDERER? AND WHY ARE THEY TRYING TO FRAME IRON MAN? ALL THIS, PLUS...A NEW ARMOR FOR WAR MACHINE!

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